



## **NASA Internships FAQ's**

### **I'm not an engineering student. Can I still get an intern position at NASA?**

Yes, NASA has opportunities for students who are not majoring in engineering. NASA needs employees with a wide variety of knowledge and skills. At NASA, our engineers, mathematicians, accountants, writers, IT specialists, project managers, program analysts, and many other professionals work together to break barriers to achieve the seemingly impossible.

Non-engineering interns may support a variety of business and program management work, including procurement, budgeting, accounting, information technology, and security.

### **What's the NASA work environment like?**

At NASA, our work is more than just a profession—it's a lifelong pursuit, a passion—and a chance to change the history of humanity. We are a community of more than 18,000 professionals who come from diverse backgrounds, but are united by a common purpose: to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research. We are curious, share a passion for exploration and come together as one to solve complex issues. At NASA innovation is a staple, teamwork is a must and everyone's opinion counts.

As a NASA intern, you'll be surrounded by world-class experts and other students who work together. In addition to meaningful assignments, you may have the opportunity to participate in activities such as:

- Tours and lectures to meet other NASA employees
- Community and educational outreach
- Social activities planned by students outside of the work environment.

### **Is the work meaningful and challenging?**

At NASA, you'll have an opportunity to work on unique projects that truly make an impact on humanity. We are continually embarking on a range of missions to better understand our planet, the solar system and beyond. And interns are given meaningful and challenging work assignments that contribute to that overall mission.

### **Where will I live as an Intern? Will I need a car?**

Pathways: While NASA does not provide housing, we will provide you sufficient time and options to locate housing. Interns will have the opportunity to work at one of NASA's many locations around the country, called centers. Many centers will provide resources, such as online forums, where you can connect with other employees to find affordable housing options in the area.

Your center location and housing options will determine if you need a car. At most centers, unless you find housing within walking distance, you will most likely need a car. However, there are ample public transportation options at some centers.

### **Do I get paid as an intern?**

Yes. The starting pay for Pathways Interns varies depending on the number of academic hours you have completed toward your degree, where the position is located, and the grade level(s) of the position(s) being filled. Please see the chart below. Pathways Interns are promoted on the basis of academic hours completed and performance ratings. In addition to pay and valuable work experience, you may receive the same benefits as a permanent employee. This includes health, life, dental and vision insurance, retirement plan, paid leave, holidays and more. More information on benefits is available [here](#).



## **NASA Internships FAQ's (cont'd)**

### **Where and when are intern opportunities announced?**

Pathways: NASA is required to announce Pathways Intern opportunities on USAJOBS. The majority of opportunities are announced in the fall, around September or October, for appointments that begin in January and again around February and March for appointments that begin in May. Exact dates may depend on the center and demand. For the latest Pathways Intern openings, check [USAJOBS](#). You can even search for jobs when you're not online by using the "Saved search" function in USAJOBS. Saved searches will automatically search for jobs based on your search criteria and notify you when there are new jobs available.

### **How long does the intern appointment last?**

Intern appointments may be for indefinite periods without established ending dates or appointments of up to one year.

### **Will I work while I'm in school?**

Some centers require students to alternate semesters between work and school, while others do not.

### **What happens when I complete my degree?**

An intern may be converted to a permanent position (or, in some circumstances, to a term position lasting 1-6 years) within 120 days of successful completion of their degree requirements. To be eligible for conversion, an intern must:

- Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.9 on a 4.0 scale
- Complete at least 640 hours of work experience in the Pathways Intern Program before completing degree requirements
- Successfully complete all required training and development assignments
- Meet the qualification requirements for the position to which the intern will be converted
- Receive a favorable recommendation for conversion from their supervisor
- Meet all other requirements for the position (e.g., drug testing, security clearance, etc.)